

REMARKS

The Applicant is filing an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith in accordance with the Examiner's comment.

As to the drawings, drafts of replacement sheets 3/5, 4/5 and 5/5 containing Figures 5-9 are attached hereto for review by the Examiner. If they are satisfactory, formal replacement sheets will be submitted in response to the next Office Action.

As to the claims, the Applicant has submitted a new set of claims 19-32 for the 18 claims currently in the case. Claims 1-18 have been cancelled.

It is also noted that Claims 2-5 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. With the changes to the drawings and claims noted herein, it is submitted that all of the Examiner's objections to the drawings, as well as the Examiner's objections of certain claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, have been overcome.

On the merits, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 9, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chihara (JP 04-312639). In addition, Claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chihara '639 in view of a second Chihara reference (JP 04-302631). Further Claims 3-4, 6, 11-12, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of the two Chihara references. Finally, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chihara '639 in view of the Panoz patent (US 6,470,990).

Claim 16, as submitted was objected to, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the cancellation of original claims 1-18 and the substitution of new claims 19-32, it is submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims have been overcome and all of the claims are allowable. None of the references disclose or suggest the specific, unique frame comprising linear bars joined together by jointing bodies with pockets and simple elements, the jointing bodies having pairs of metal sheets welded thereto in a certain manner.

In accordance with the above, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 19-32, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the cited references.

Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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